# EXHIBIT A

#### COURT OF APPEAL, FIRST CIRCUIT STATE OF LOUISIANA DOCKET NO. 2017-CA-1141

VOICE OF THE EX-OFFENDER, ET AL.,

Plaintiffs-Appellants

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STATE OF LOUISIANA, ET AL.,

**Defendants-Appellees** 

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AMICI CURIAE BRIEF BY NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE & EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC., THE SENTENCING PROJECT, & SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER IN SUPPORT OF PLAINTIFFS-APPELLANTS

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#### **ARGUMENT**

- I. FELONY DISENFRANCHISEMENT LAWS, INCLUDING LOUISIANA'S, ARE INCONSISTEN T WITH THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLE OF AN INCLUSIVE SOCIETY.
  - A. Louisiana's Felony Disenfranchisement Law Is Rooted in Racial

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<sup>19</sup> Kyr supratal 8 at 11142.

<sup>23</sup> Hby suprate 2 at 92-93.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>20</sup> A**þi**ĐiBrat5-6, nl; see alsoAþiRiBrat15 nl 1 (ig La. Cto at VI, §4 (1812)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>21</sup> A**pisOiB**r at 5-6, nl (**pis**a **pl**(**ig**La. C**t** at VI, §4 (1812)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>22</sup> Id. at6 (**i**La. Chat VIII, § (1921)).

1. Explicit Racial Discrimination Motivated the Adoption of Louisiana's and Other States' Criminal Disenfranchisement Laws.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>25</sup> Hunter, 471 U.S. at226.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>26</sup> Id. at230.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> Add. Ship Ne Challenging Criminal Disenfrantisement Under the Voting Rights Act: A New Strategyl 03 YalL.J. 537, 538 (1993).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>28</sup> Louisiana,225 F. Spat367-70.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>29</sup> Id. at369.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>30</sup> Id. at371.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>31</sup> ld.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>32</sup> ld.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>33</sup> Louisiana 225 F. Spat373.

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2. The Fear of Purported Criminality of Black People Has Also Led to the Adoption in Louisiana and Elsewhere of Felony Disenfranchisement Statutes.

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- II. RESTORATION OF VOTING RIGHTS FOR PEOPLE WITH FELONY CONVICTIONS ON PR OBATION AND PAROLE WOULD STRENGTHEN COMMUNITIES IN LOUISIANA AND HAS WIDE PUBLIC SUPPORT.
  - A. Expanding Voter Eligibility in Lo uisiana and Elsewhere Leads to More Inclusive Communities by Increasing Civic Engagement and Public Safety.

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> B**s** supra**6**76 at 74041.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>78</sup> See, e.g A Br at6; ABr at4.

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B. The Nationwide Momentum Against Disenfranchisement Laws Supports Expansion of Voting Rightsfor Individuals with Felony Convictions in Louisiana

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>89</sup> Mark. Dhim Prisoner Disenfranchisement Policy: A Threat To Democrate A Threat Threat Threat Threat A Threat Threat Threat A Threat Threa

<sup>90</sup> Id. (in Handble Outsiders: Studies in the sociology of devia (not) UK: Fe PatGtCtMatan 1963)).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>91</sup> Felony Disenfranchisement: A Primeupratel 4 at5.

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<sup>93</sup> **N&**D. **Pb** Expanding the Vote: State FeloDysenfranchisement Reforma Ph(2010) at1-2, h/bil/2k.81y
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JaniS. Nk(N.Y. BarNo 2851301)

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<sup>\*</sup>Motion to enroll pro hac vice pending